



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Morna A. Murray, J.D.  
Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

February 23, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Morna A. Murray, J.D., Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding **Proposed H.B. No. 5900 - AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC ELIGIBILITY FORMS FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.**

Based on the department's discussions with proponents of H.B. No. 5900, DDS believes that the electronic forms required to be available in this proposal are related to the re-determination process for Medicaid eligibility for individuals eligible for DDS services. This re-determination process is required annually and proponents have expressed that they believe an electronically fillable form that could be returned electronically would be preferable to the existing process of downloading forms, filling them out by hand, and mailing or hand-delivering the forms once complete. Conceptually, DDS agrees that making processes easier for families is beneficial. However, it is not the purview of the Department of Developmental Services to make changes to eligibility determination processes. The Medicaid eligibility re-determination process is the responsibility of the Department of Social Services (DSS).

It is our understanding that the Department of Social Services is in the process of rolling out a new Medicaid re-determination system which is web-based and may resolve some of the proponents' issues with the current system. DDS will be happy to inform families and private providers of this new system when it becomes available, which is anticipated to be in the fall of 2016, and in the meantime will continue to work closely with DSS to make the re-determination process as painless as possible for individuals and their families.

If H.B. No. 5900 were to move forward, DDS would request the Public Health Committee to (1) clearly define what "redetermination of eligibility for services" means; (2) decide if "permanent determination of intellectual disability" really means "permanent eligibility for Medicaid for individuals with intellectual disability funded by the Department of Developmental Services"; and (3) ensure that any statutory requirement enacted based on this bill's language not be placed in section 17a-211 of the general statutes, which is the statute that requires DDS to submit a five-year plan to the legislature.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony on [H.B. No. 5900](#). Please contact Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066, if you have any questions.